

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY L/OES:RJBETTAUER:EB

APPROVED BY L/OES:RJBETTAUER

DOD/OSD/ISA - MR. ANDERSON

S/P - LT. COL. ANDERSON (DRAFT)

PM/DCA - MR. PHELPS

EUR/RPM - MR. CHRISTIANSON

IO/UNP - MR. LONG (DRAFT)

L/UNA - MR. MATHESON

ACDA - LT. COL. STAPLES (DRAFT)

ACDA/GC - MRS. MAZEAU (DRAFT)

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, ICRC, PARM

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN ARMED

CONFLICT--PROPOSED NATO CONSULTATIONS

REF: USNATO 3433

1. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT PROPOSED IMS/
POLADS EXERCISE, DEPT IS PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH RECOM-
MENDATION IN PARA 5 OF REFTEL. WE AGREE THAT MATTER
SHOULD BE HANDLED BY IMS AND POLADS, AND WE SHARE MIS-
SION'S DOUBTS ABOUT UTILITY OF REFERRING MATTER TO HIGHER
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LEVEL. HOWEVER, WE REQUEST THAT YOU POINT OUT THAT NATO

EXERCISE SHOULD TAKE FULL ACCOUNT, AS APPROPRIATE, OF GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AND STUDIES.

2. FYI: WE CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT LACK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN NATO REPS OF MEMBER GOVTS AND THEIR RELEVANT HOME BUREAUCRACIES ON THIS SUBJECT. LATEST EXAMPLE IS IN REFTEL. LAST MONTH BRITISH EXPERT TOLD DEFENSE DEPT IN WASHINGTON THAT THEY OPPOSED, REPEAT OPPOSED, NATO INVOLVEMENT IN SUBJECT AT THIS TIME, BUT PARA 1 OF REFTEL SAYS THAT IN POLADS MEETING BRITISH FAVORED CONSULTATIONS. WE SUSPECT THAT THIS--AS WELL AS SEVERAL OTHER SUCH INCONSISTENCIES IN THE PAST--ARE RESULT OF INEFFECTIVE INTERNAL COORDINATION. SUCH LACK OF COORDINATION COULD HAVE DETRIMENTAL IMPACT ON SUBSTANCE. END FYI.

3. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT DURING PAST TWO YEARS STATE, DEFENSE AND ACDA HAVE COLLABORATED ON EXTENSIVE INTERNAL STUDIES OF WEAPONS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN CONTEXT OF LUCERNE AND LUGANO MEETINGS. WE MAY DECIDE TO SUBMIT MATERIAL BASED ON THESE STUDIES FOR IMS CONSIDERATION; IF SO, WE WOULD REQUIRE TIME TO ASSEMBLE AND EDIT SUCH INFORMATION IN A FORM SUITABLE FOR USE BY IMS. WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE MISSION'S BEST ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE STARTING AND COMPLETION DATES FOR IMS WORK. MISSION SHOULD KEEP ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENT OF IMS REPORT AND KEEP DEPT ADVISED.

4. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE FOR DISCUSSION IN AUTUMN OF IMS REPORT BY POLADS (IN PARTICULAR, WE ARE UNCLEAR AS TO WHETHER REFERENCE IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL TO POLAD MEETING WITH DISARMAMENT EXPERTS RELATES TO FALL MEETING OF NATO DISARMAMENT EXPERTS OR SEPARATE EXERCISE). IN DISCUSSING POLADS WORK, MISSION SHOULD MAKE POINT THAT POLADS DISCUSSION SHOULD BE BASED ON GOVT INSTRUCTION, AND SHOULD, AS APPROPRIATE, DRAW ON EXPERTISE OF RELEVANT PERSONS IN MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WHO WORK ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS SUBJECTS. INGERSOLL

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